SATURDAY EVENING POST.

A FAMILY NEWSPAPER—NEUTRAL IN POLITICS—DEVOTED TO NEWS, LITERATURE, SCIENCE, MORALITY, AGRICULTURE, AND AMUSEMENT.

VOLUME XIX. { PUBLISHED BY GEO R. GRAHAM & CO. Chestnut above Fifth Alley, Below Third street—Opposite the Girard Bank. } PHILADELPHIA, AUGUST 1, 1840. { TERMS. $3 PER ANNUM. $2 IF PAID IN ADVANCE. $1 25 IN ADVANCE FOR 6 MONTHS. } WHOLE No. 992.

Written for the Saturday Evening Post.

What head-piece—What face! What soul withal he may claim!
What have I here? From infancy till now
My life has been one scene of toil and care;
Cradle of "dark darkness" scarcely round my brow
And dust a gloom upon my whole career.
Oh! I have been the sport of every one,
Of every art that human heart might know
My life has been like some vast d-ert's wide,
Bound and forsaken by the weary sun, that filled
Who finds upon his cheek the summer's blast
As freighted full with death unto his energizing.
He looks to Heaven, sees nothing cheering there.
Hope then forsakes him! generous now despair.

Yet rest—a time I don't need and seek,
Green spots there were, with lovely verdure clad,
Where nature still in all her beauty smil'd;
And those retreats upon the heart might glad.
But long he must not even here remain—
Twere but toil and bend thereto yet intervene.

So on my life, might spots the way have cheer'd
Where for a moment I a refuge found.
It soon I fell that I was not destined
And love and friendship no more heard I around.
'Twas but a passing fleeting rest I knew
That vanished at the morning's sparkling dew

I've sought for happiness with anxious care,
And what I dreamt I found it in my grasp,
It all had fled me, melted off in air,
Or empty disappointment left in my grasp.
I've plunk'd a flower in sweetness fed,
Fair fruitful blooming, in the next hour dead.

Then have I been: and what am I now?—Oh, who could tell? The present what is it?
To days, or months, or years! there will be No!
But time's existence ceases as they flit
Thus like the waves which roar on; rolling on
They vanish, and another comes in turn
In what shall I be? What prophet now may scan
The events which dark futurity conceals?
Some mists are clear! still others! still they're in store
In that which fleeting time to him reveals!
What shall I be? Go ask the cradled blown
Whether now it counts? whether now it goes?
Ask the lisping child, ask the boy! W. B. W.

From the London Metropolitan Magazine for July.

The Quebrada
Or San Juan de Dios.

CHAPTER I.

Easter Sunday—Valparazo.

The night was very dark in the city of Valparazo, ere whose unlighted streets and the waters of whose shore the moon had not yet risen. The several* were blowing their valorous, and trying their vocal powers—the one with the bass viol with which they vibrated *Viva Chile! Long live the wide* streets. [It is clean o'clock, and the hour is silent.] All the theatres and public houses were full, and clouds of incense floated over the town as they repeated their visions. But all the churches were and not there; before the altars and altars; and while the votaries were intent upon the elevation of the host, a young couple escaped themselves from the crowd, and left the cathedral together.

Don Jose and Donna Veneneia rapidly ascended the Cordillera on the edge of the summer and quiet Quebrada of San Juan de Dios. But as they proceeded they trembled, and turned round suddenly as they both fancied they heard the sound of footsteps behind them. But as they still pursued they endeavored to penetrate the depths of the Quebrada, over which they thought they perceived a dark shadow. But still they proceeded on and on, and they again applied themselves to climb

body rolled through the thicket into the water, but eluded the current of the warrior Kan-ka-gee.

"Thank your stars, boys, that your lives are not trusted to such a stupid lout as that," whispered Bolt, joining his party in the thicket. "Cocking, that chap was pointed for a war party, and you may depend there is more varmilion in the neighborhood. The red devils must be beyond the rifle upon the hill above us; God knows how many of 'em; but the best thing we can do is to charge cover, and strike straight to the fields to the homestead, where we can stand a siege, if the worst comes to the worst."

Greydare nodded approval, and instantly gave the necessary order, while his men silently deployed from the bed of the stream, and ascended the bank, preparatory to making a swift movement across the meadows to the house. Two fields, separated by a high rail fence, laid "warm defence," interposed between them and the homestead, and it was the sound of their feet in running across the first field, which caught the quick ear of Thayendanega, and in the moment alarmed his unshrinking followers. With a rush, by order of one of the chiefs, had sounded off, on the instant, to communicate with the Sachem, and had nearly reached the house, when, reaching his ear behind him, behold Greydare's party in the act of surmounting the division fence we have mentioned. Without waiting to select his man, he instantly fired upon them, and the shot produced at once the effect intended by the keen-witted savage. The whites, finding themselves attacked in the direction of the house, deemed that it was already in the possession of the enemy. They faltered in their advance, and then, as a tomahawk yell burst from the thicket in their flank, they formed in the angles of the serpentine fence, as the nearest cover at hand, and poured their fire upon the attacking foe. The Mohawks recoiled on the instant, and both parties lay now protected by their cover, with a broad strip of moonlight meadow between them, into which both were afraid to venture, concealing themselves with equal adroitness, and preparing themselves with a popping fire upon each other, as the gleam of weapons betrayed here and there an object to aim at.

The situation of Greydare's party seemed now precarious in the extreme.

"The whites are surrounding us, captain," said one of the brave but undisciplined yeomanry. "We had better back out by crawling in the direction of the house, and take to the trees in their rear."

"Now my say is, boys," quoth Bolt, "just to do neither one nor the other."

"Whit, then, do you counsel, Bolt? for we can not long maintain ourselves where we lie, if the Indians be in any strength," said Greydare.

"Why, the bosses is a bad one, any how you can fix it; capting; but I think I understand the exper ment. Don't you see——serve you right, Bill! I told you they'd shoot you afore the night was over, if you would pop your head above the rider, instead of firing atween the rails—don't you see that we only had one shot from the house, while the old fence is already pretty well riddled from the billiads! Well elevate a little lower, Adams, if it's that shaking fidler by the big elm you're trying for—well, then, as I was saying, it's pretty easy to guess where the strength of the red skins must lie; and I don't see what we can do better than to streak it right ahead for the house, and trust for legs and luck for getting safe into it."

The suggestion was too much in accordance with Greydare's feelings not to be eagerly caught at by him. Indeed, so overpowering was his anxiety for the beloved inmates of the mansion, that nothing but considerations of duty toward the party, who had trusted themselves to his guidance, had hitherto prevented him from dashing forward to his destination of all hazards. But it he had still hesitated as to the course to adopt in the present emergency, the voice of Thayendanega was at once dispelled in the moment that Bolt finished speaking.

A sound of terror, the shriek of woman in distress, with the hoarse cry of age imploring mercy and assistance, rose suddenly from the dwelling, chilling the blood of some, and making the pulses of others leap with loud and rapid impetus, and And it was then that, bursting simultaneously from their cover, the red man and the white could be seen urging their way with rival fleetness toward the same goal, for the moment apparently regardless of each other's neighborhood, pausing not to strike down a combatant in the race, but starting only who first could reach the house. The one thirsting to share in the treasures that associated in the act of perpetration, the other burning with fierce impatience to arrest or avenge the butchery of his friends.

A light and agile youth, a fair-haired boy of sixteen, was the first that gained the door of the mansion, but soon as he planted his foot upon the threshold, his head was thrown asunder by an Indian tomahawk, and with limbs quivering in death, his body rolled down the steps, while the exulting savage who dealt the blow leaped over it brandishing his fatal weapon. But his triumph was short. Greydare was close upon him, and, as he stooped every nerve in rushing forward, to raise with his drawn sword an auspiciously spun the Indian, that the point was driven through his back deep into the panel of the door, which burst open from the shock.

Leaving the friends for the moment to make good their entrance as best they could, by opening their knotting knave and clubbed rifle to the tomahawks and scalpers of the Indians, who instantly mingled with them in wild melee around the porch, Greydare rushed forward to the sitting room of the family. His shrieking sphere from the sight of horror which told him that he had come too late. The master of the house lay stunned and senseless upon the floor. Adila, the beautiful Adila, had disappeared; but her fair haired sister ly wallowing in her blood, while a gash across her forehead, and the clotted locks drawn back from her brow, and the print of the gory fingers fresh upon the golden tissue, called Greydare's eye to a savage, who stood by the sobbing knife in hand with a fearful grin of disappointed malice, as he sprang through the open window. But there was no time now for grief to have its way. The din of the conflict on the outside from both sides, and Greydare turned to the succor of his friends whom it might avail.

"Powder, powder, capting!" shouted Bolt, who was the moment presented himself. "There's a big redskin keeping three of our men at bay with his tomahawk; I must see him up at once, so give the rest an opportunity for making a rush from the outhouses; our best men are still outside—Bodine and Boscheere are dead—and Bill and Hans, the miller, yet holds the door steadily, and Bill Stacey has gone up with his axe to drop the gaster from the upper floor, to prevent their descending at the windows. Ah! there's the tool for my purpose," he added, seizing the ducking gun from the shoulder, and throwing down his half loaded rifle; while Greydare led in the meantime, secured the window through which the ferocious An-nah-yeh had a moment before made his entrance to the room.

Greydare now rushed to support the man who was holding the door against odds so steadily, while Bolt ascended the stairs, firmly grasping the ducking gun, and adding a handful of buckshot to the already heavy charged piece as he went. He paused a moment at the same instant that Greydare, rallying out from the house swept in hand, cut down the sturdy warrior for whom Bolt had reserved his charge. A deep Mohawk instantly roused forward to avenge the fall of their comrade. But the last exigence of Bolt did good service in the moment. Greydare's career would have been cut short forever. A glimmer of hesitation drew them quickly to regain their cover.

"Now boys," shouted the woodsman, "make a rush for the house, while the red devils digest that peppering."

The handful of outlying whites did not wait for the invitation to be repeated, but rushed pell-mell within the porch so furiously as to bear down each other in the hall, while the sturdy miller made a liberal use of his feet in pushing aside their bodies while shutting the heavy oaken door.

Furious at being thus foiled, the brave Mohawks made a simultaneous rush toward the entrance, when, at that instant the rude and ponderous gun, loaded with a household supply of nails, and the Minuteman of Softer Jung, Delhi, and pewter spoons of every sort and description, discharged its contents full into the nearest cluster of assailants, and left the stout yeomen masters of the field.

Saturday Evening Post.

PHILADELPHIA:
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GEORGE R. R. GRAHAM & CO.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5, 1848.

The Washington Small Hand Letter.—The Superscription of Our Letter.

During the past week, as will be seen by referring to another column, our city has been the scene of another of those riots, which for some years past have become as numerous as to fill the heart of the patriot with dismay, and almost shake his confidence in the stability of our institutions.

Several years since, an Act was passed by our Legislature, granting to the Philadelphia and Trenton Rail Road Company, the right of laying their rails through the district of Kensington and a portion of the Northern Liberties, with the consent of the Commissioners of the respective districts, in order to connect with the Willow street Rail Road. A partial opposition was made, at the time, to the measure, but it soon extended, and the rails were laid down.

During the session of 1838, '39, however, an effort was made on the part of the Company, to obtain an Act of the Legislature, authorizing them to adopt a new route, through a narrower street, and more populous section of Kensington. The contemplated change was opposed, as they said, in order to avoid several short curves. The Act accordingly was passed, and a year allotted to the Company for the completion of the road. Some delay, however, prevented the speedy commencement of the road,—and when, after a lapse of several months, the workmen were placed upon the result of their labor was always torn up in the night.

No sooner had the Legislature met, in January last, than petitions, from the southeast of Kensington, from public meetings, from citizens and property holders in the district, poured in, praying for a repeal of the law. A bill to this effect was, in consequence, reported by the Committee on Corporations, but, owing to the pressure of business at that time, it was *suffered* to remain without a passage. In the meantime, however, the Company appeared upon the field, anxious to procure the re-enactment of the law before the year for which it was limited, should expire. The two interests were thus in direct collision. The Rail Road Company prevailed by a majority of fifteen. A suit, instituted before the Supreme Court, to try the question, has also resulted in favor of the Company.

A few days since, the Company commenced again constructing the road, which had been nightly so indefatigably removed during the early part of the spring. The same scenes were again enacted. The inhabitants rose up in mobs to prevent the work. Day after day the excitement increased until on Monday evening it resulted in the disgraceful scenes which are so painfully recorded in another column.

We do not intend to enter into the merits of the question between the Company and the inhabitants, when we denounce their resort to mobviolence as dangerous, illegal, and worthy of the severest reprobation. A mob is an incipient revolution, wanting only magnitude to overthrow the government. It is a state of temporary anarchy. It is all the more criminal in defiance; involves the interests in the punishment of the guilty; diminishes the respect of other nations for a republic, and encourages the spirit of faction, which is the worst enemy of liberty. There is no friend of order, no real patriot who would uphold a mob on any occasion. It is the duty of every man to put down wrong. If the laws do not protect us, we have the power to re-model them—if we are aggrieved by the action of the Legislature, we can petition, and choose another. Now is no great, no remedy so slow, so injured party so small in number, as to justify a resort to the insurrectionary spirit of a mob. There is a majesty in the voice of those suffering wrong, that will make their heard amid all the clamor of faction, and the trickery of interested men. It may not—we admit—be heeded at once, but truth will ultimately prevail. Injustice cannot live forever. The patience of injured innocence has in it a moral elasticity against which all the noisy vaporing of brawling, loosing spirits cannot prevail. If, therefore, the inhabitants of Kensington are outraged by the last Act of the Legislature they ought to have patiently awaited another session, and petitioned for another, accompanying their petitions with such irresistible evidence, as would suffer no denial. If, on the contrary, they were not wronged, how much more flagrant is their late outbreak.

We cannot close without remarking on the firmness and patriotism displayed by Judge Conrad, of the General Session, in addressing the rioters, with a severity, which has struck a wholesome terror into the violators of the law. Every friend of order will approve the course he pursued, and will do more, by the moral effects it shall produce, to put down the spirit of rioting in our midst, than that of any other. Judgment will be *judicial*, who has ever taken part in quelling a mob in Philadelphia.

Niagara.

Extract of a letter to the Editors, dated

NIAGARA FALLS, JULY 28TH, 1848.

* * * * * * *

But Niagara; who shall attempt to describe its grandeur, or to convey any impression of this magnificent scene! I went out to look at the Falls at dusk, and never have I left so much like a mere worm. In passing over the bridge built to Bath Island, you cross the rapids, a sight worth the whole trip—the waters come foaming, and dashing, and rising as far as the eye can reach, like a troop of warriors, dashing their plumed heads in the smoke, and flashing like diamonds in the sun light. The Falls themselves, are about one hundred yards below the bridge on the American side, and their constant roar, resembles the continued peal of cannon. They are different from any idea I had formed, either by reading or by engravings. The whole sheet of water, gathers at the final leap, and sure a deep green tinge as it rushes the depth of the water; but the wonderful thing is, as far as the eye can reach, like a mass of white, dashing, beautiful spirit, which has ever taken part in quelling a mob in Philadelphia.

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Political Intelligence.

APPOINTMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT. *By and with the advice and consent of the Senate.*—Matthias Dickerson, to be United States Judge for the District of New Jersey, in the place of William Rossell, deceased.

James W. Archer, to be Attorney of the United States for the Western District of Florida, in the place of Vincent Butler.

Ramon Leon Sanchez, to be Consul of United States for the port of Cardenas, in the Island of Cuba.

John J. Bailey, to be Consul of the United States for the port of Genoa, in the kingdom of Sardinia, in the place of Thomas Campbell, deceased.

Robert Henry Clements, to be a justice of the peace for the county of Washington, in the District of Columbia.

Ferdinand Dreonia, Register of the Land Office at Cincinnati, Ia, vice H. P. Womrath, resigned.

Lemuel Hoyt, Receiver, Robert White, Collector Georgetown, District of Columbia, vice Thomas Turner, resigned.

Robert M. Cornelison, Assistant Collector for the District of New York, to succeed Thomas J. Skinner, vice John J. Plume, appointed during the recess of the Senate.

John H. Butler, Surveyor, City Point, Va. vice Edward Pleasant, deceased.

A. H. Wilder, Collector, Ipswich, Mass. vice Timothy Boardman, resigned.

David Jackson, Collector, Oswegatchie, N Y. vice Nauth Holdwell, resigned, to decline office—Ut. Mail.

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John Gardner, Register of the Land Office at Wisconsin Territory, Lot Edwards, vice Henry Dodge, resigned.

LOUISIANA ELECTION—THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT.

Parishes.	Whole Vote.	Dem.	Mourre, Whig.
St. Martin,	603	603	—
St. Landry,	860	268	—
St. Mary,	137	137	—
Iberia,	30	30	—
La Fayette,	13 maj.		
Carondelet,	104		
Cahinella,	108		
Acapel,	100		
Rapides,	47		
Catahoula,	1		
Calcasieu,	4		
Caldwell,	20		
	631		912

LOUISIANA ELECTION.—The New Orleans Picayune of the 31st says: "We have not a word of additional news in relation to the election of Member of Congress in this district. The Courier of last evening has an article speaking confidently of Wurtz's election, but we have heard nothing that can induce us to hazard a statement, one way or the other. We do not look for news from the three parishes yet to be heard from until the arrival of the mail. The Courier says: 'The Courier says—A letter has been received from Mr. Downes, which calculates on 200 Mr Wurtz majority in the parishes of Lafourche, Terre Bonne and Assumption, and 60 majority in St. Mary. Mr. Downes is a resident of Lafourche, was elected in 1837 as the parish of Claiborne. If so the parish of Claiborne. If so the parish of Claiborne. If so

Master Humphrey's Clock.

BY CHARLES DICKENS.

PARTS X. & XI.

The Old Curiosity Shop.

CHAPTER THE SEVENTH.

Little Nell stood tamely by, with her eyes raised to the countenance of Mr. Quilp as he read the letter, plainly showing by her manner while she entertained some fear and distrust of the little man, she was much inclined to laugh at his uncouth appearance and grotesque attitude. And yet there was visible on the part of the child a painful anxiety for his reply, and a consciousness of his power to render it dangerously or distressing, which was strongly at variance with the impulse and restrained it more effectually that she could have done by any efforts of her own.

That Mr. Quilp was himself perplexed, and that in no small degree, by the contents of the letter, was sufficiently obvious. Before he had got through the first two or three lines he began to open his eyes very wide and to frown more horribly, the next two or three caused him to scratch his head in an uncommonly vicious manner, and when he came to the conclusion he gave a long dismal whistle, laid the letter on the desk, and sat with his head leaning upon his hand, and his face turned toward the ground awaited his further pleasure.

"Halloa here!" he said at length, in a voice, and with a suddenness, which made the child start as though a gun had been fired off at her ear. "Nelly!"

"Yes, sir."

"Do you know what's inside this letter, Nell?"

"No, sir."

"Are you sure, quite sure, quite certain, upon your soul?"

"Quite sure, sir."

"Do you wish you may die if you do know, hey?" said the dwarf.

"Indeed I don't know," returned the child.

"Well!" muttered Quilp, as he marked her earnest look. "I believe you. Humph! Gone in four-and-twenty hours! What the devil has he done with it, that's the mystery!"

This reflection set him scratching his head and biting his nails once more. While he was thus employed his features gradually relaxed into what was with him a cheerful smile, but which in any other man would have been a ghastly grin of pain, and when the child looked up again she found that he was regarding her with extraordinary favor and complacency.

"You look very pretty to-day, Nelly, charmingly pretty. Are you tired, Nelly?"

"No, sir. I'm in a hurry to get back, for is will be anxious while I am away."

"There's no hurry, little Nell, no hurry at all," said Quilp. "How should you like to be my master two, Nelly?"

"To be what sir?"

"My master two, Nelly, my second, my Mrs. Quilp," said the dwarf.

The child looked frightened, but seemed not to understand him, which Mr. Quilp observing, hastened to explain his meaning more distinctly.

"To be Mrs. Quilp the second, when Mrs. Quilp the first is dead, sweet Nell," said Quilp, wrinkling up his eyes and biting her toward him with his best leerfinger, "to be my wife, my little ebony-cheeked, red-lipped wife. Say that Mrs. Quilp lives five years, or only four, you'll be just the proper age for a wife. Or if she has a great gulf Nelly, a very good gut, and see if one of these days you don't come to be Mrs. Quilp, or Tower Hill."

So far from being sustained and stimulated by this delightful prospect, the child shrank from him in great agitation, and trembled violently. Mr. Quilp, either because frightening any body afforded him constitutional delight, or because it was pleasant to contemplate the death of Mrs. Quilp number one, or the elevation of Mrs. Quilp number two to her post and title, or because he was determined for purposes of his own to be agreeable and good-humored at that particular time, only laughed and fingered to take no heed of her alarm.

"You shall come with me to Tower Hill, and see Mrs. Quilp that is, directly," said the dwarf. "She's very fond of you, Nell, though not so fond as I am. You shall come home with me."

"I must go back indeed," said the child. "He told me to return directly I had the answer."

"But you haven't it, Nelly," returned the dwarf, "and won't have it, and can't have it, until I have been home, so you see that to do your errand, you must go with me. Gradually no grander but my dear, and well directly." With that, Mr. Quilp softened himself to roll gradually off the desk until his slight legs touched the ground, when he got upon them and I of the way from the counting-house to the wharf outside, where the first objects that presented themselves were the boy who had stood on his head and another gentleman of about his own stature, rolling in the mud together, locked in a tight embrace, and cuffing each other with mutual heartiness.

"Is Kit?" cried Nelly, clasping her hands, "poor Kit! who came with me! oh pray stop them Mr. Quilp!"

"I'd stop 'em," cried Quilp, diving into the little counting-house and returning with a thick stick, "if it stop 'em for ever. We've been fight away. I'll fight you both, I'll take both of you, both together, both together!"

With which defiance the dwarf flourished his cudgel, and dancing round the combatants, and treading upon them, and skipping over them, in a kind of frenzy, laid about him, now on one and now on the other, in a most desperate manner, always aiming at their heads, and dealing such blows as must have fallen upon the wrong side have inflicted. This being warmer work than they had calculated upon, speedily cooled the courage of the belligerents, who scrambled to their feet and called for quarters.

"I'll beat you to a pulp, you dogs," said Quilp, vainly endeavoring to get near either of them for a parting blow. "I'll batter you till you're proper colored. I'll break your fame till you haven't a grain between you, I will."

"Come, you drop that stick or it 'll be worse for you," said his boy, dodging round him, and watching an opportunity to rush in; "you drop that stick."

"Come a little nearer, and I'll drop it on your skull, you dog," said Quilp, with gleaming eyes. "a little nearer—nearer still."

But the boy declined the invitation until his master was apparently a little off his guard, when he darted in, and closing with him, threw him to the ground with great ease. Quilp, who was no strong as a lion, nearly kept his hold until the boy was tugging at it with his utmost power, when he suddenly let it go and sent his rustler backward, so that he fell violently upon his head. The success of this manœuvre tickled Mr. Quilp beyond description, and he laughed and stamped upon the ground as at a most irresistible jest.

"Never mind," said the boy, wadding his head and rubbing it at the same time; "you see if ever I offer to strike any body again because they say you're a uglier dwarf than can be seen anywhere for a penny, that's all."

"Do you mean to say I'm not, you dog?" returned Quilp.

"No!" retorted the boy.

"Then what do you fight on my warf for, you villain?" said Quilp.

"Because he said so," replied the boy, pointing to Kit, "and because you ain't."

"Then why did he say," bowed Kit, "that Miss Nelly was ugly, and that she and my master was obliged to do whatever his master liked? Why did he say that?"

"He said what he did because he's a fool, and you said what you did because you're very wise and clever—and because you don't know you're very sarcastic of yourself, Kit," said Quilp with great severity in his manner, but still more of quiet malice about him, "and because—" Here's nipsense for you Kit. Always speak the truth. At all times, Kit, speak the truth. Look the counting-house you dog, and bring me the key."

The other boy, to whom this order was addressed, did as he was told, and was rewarded for his partisanship in behalf of his master, by a humorous rap on the head with the letter, which brought the water into his eyes. Then Mr. Quilp departed with the child and Kit in a boat, and the boy revenged himself by dancing on his head at intervals on the extreme verge of the wharf, during the whole time they crossed the river.

There was only Mrs. Quilp at home, and she little expecting the return of her lord, was just congratulating herself for a refreshing slumber on the sound of his footsteps roused her. She had barely time to seem to be occupied in some unobtrusive, when he entered, accompanied by the child; having left Kit behind.

"Here's Nelly Trent, dear Mrs. Quilp," said her husband. "A giant of wine, my dear, and biscuit, for her here, and a bun you will. She'll eat with you, my soul, while I write a letter."

Mrs. Quilp looked trembligly in her spouse's face to know what this meant, received a look imported, and obedient to the summons she saw in his gesture, followed him into the parlor.

"And what I say is," said he, stopping short, "See if you can get out of her anything about her grandfather or what they do, or how they live, or what he has in his head, or how much money he's got, you know, if I ask. You can talk more freely to one another than you do to us, and you have a soft, mild way with you that'll win upon her. You'll try?"

"Yes, Quilp."

"Go, then. What's the matter now?"

"Dear Quilp," faltered his wife, "I love the child—if you could, do without sending me decisive her—"

The dwarf muttering a terrible oath looked round as if for some weapon with which to inflict condign punishment upon his disobedient wife. The submissive little woman hurriedly entreated him not to be angry, and promised to do as he bade her.

"Do you hear me," whispered Quilp, stopping and pushing her back with every word, "I want secrets; I know you can. I'm listening, recollect. If you're not shrp enough I'll croak the door, and we betide you if I have to creak it much on."

Mrs. Quilp departed according to order, and upon going, unbarred, unbarred, unchained, unbolted the partly opened door, and applying his ear close to it, began to listen with a face of great craftiness and delight.

Poor Mrs. Quilp was thinking, however, in what manner to begin or what kind of inquiries she could make; and it was not until the door, ceasing in a very urgent manner, warned her to proceed without further consideration, that the sound of her voice was heard.

"How very often you have come backward and forward lately to Mr. Quilp, my dear."

"I have said so to grandfather, a hundred times," returned Nell innocently.

"And what has he said to that?"

"Only sighed, and dropt his head, and seemed so sad and worried that if you could have seen him I am sure you must have cried; you could not have helped it more than I, I know. How they can't croak?"

"It sticks," returned Mrs. Quilp with an uneasy glance toward it. "But your grandfather—he used not to be so wretched?"

"Oh no! not at all—quite happy"—as different! we were once so happy and he so cheerful and contented! You cannot think what a sad change he fallen on us since."

"I am very, very sorry, to hear you speak like this, my dear" said Mrs. Quilp. And she spoke the truth.

"Thank you," returned the child, kissing her cheek, "you are always kind to me, and it is a pleasure to know it, for grandfather is so full of care about him, but poor Kit. I am very happy, still I ought to feel happier perhaps than I do, but you cannot think how it grieves me sometimes to see him alter so."

"He'll alter again, Nelly," said Mrs. Quilp, "and be what he was before."

"Oh if God only would only let that come about!" said the child with streaming eyes "but it is a long time now, since he first began to—I thought during a week or more."

"It's the wind," said Mrs. Quilp, faintly. "Began to—"

"To be so thoughtful and dejected, and to forget our old way of spending the time in the long evenings," said the child. "I used to read to him by the fireside, and he sat listening, and when I stopped and he began to talk, he told me about my mother, and how she once looked and spoke just like me when she was a little child. Then he used to like me to sit near him, and to make me understand that she was not lying in her grave, but had flown to a beautiful country beyond the sky, where angels clad or ever grow old—we were happy once?"

"Nelly, Nelly"—said the poor woman, "I can't bear to hear you one so young as you, so serious. Pray don't cry."

"I do so very seldom," said Nell, "but I have kept this to myself so long, and I am so sad and quite well I think, for the tears come into my eyes and I cannot keep them back. I don't mind telling you my grief, for I know you will love me all the more for it again."

Mrs. Quilp turned away her head and made no answer.

"Then," said the child, "we often walked in the fields and among the green trees, and when we came home at night, we liked it better for seeing them, and what a happy place it was. And if it was dark and rather dull, we used to say, what did it matter to us, for it only made us remember our old walks with greater pleasure, and look forward to our next one. But now we never have these walks, and though it is the same house it is darker and much more gloomy than it used to be, indeed."

She paused here, but though the door creaked more than once, Mrs Quilp said nothing.

"Dear," said the child, "we often talked in the fields and among the green trees, and when we came home at night, we liked it better for seeing them, and what a happy place it was. And if it was dark and rather dull, we used to say, what did it matter to us, for it only made us remember our old walks with greater pleasure, and look forward to our next one. But now we never have these walks, and though it is the same house it is darker and much more gloomy than it used to be, indeed."

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"Mind you don't suppose," said the child earnestly, "that grandfather is less kind to me than he was. I think he loves me better than ever, and is kinder and more affectionate than he was the day before. You do not know how fond he is of me."

"I'm sure he loves you dearly," said Mrs. Quilp.

"Indeed, indeed he does!" cried Nell, "as dearly as I love him. But I have not told you the greatest change of all, and this you must never breathe again to any one. He has no sleep now, none at all. Night after night I hear him say that; for every night and nearly all night long he is away from home."

"Eh!" said the child, laying her finger on her lip and looking round. "When he comes home in the morning, which is generally just before day, I sit him in. Last night he was very late, and it was quite light. I saw that his face was deadly pale, that his eyes were bloodshot, and that his clothes were all wet. He said he had gone to bed again, I heard him say, before he knew that I was there, that he could not bear his life much longer, and if it was not for the child, would wish to die. What shall I do? Oh! what shall I do?"

The fluctuations of her heart were open; the child, overpowered by the weight of her sorrows and anxieties, by the first confidence she had ever shown, and the sympathy with which her little tale had been received, hid her face in the arms of her helpless friend, and burst into a passion of tears.

In a few moments Mr. Quilp returned, and expressed the utmost surprise to find her in this condition, which he did very correctly and with admirable effect, for that kind of acting which is rendered familiar to him by long practice, and he was quite at home in it.

"Here, Nell," said he, "Mrs. Quilp," said the dwarf, squinting in a hideous manner to imply that his wife was to follow his lead. "It's a long way from my house to Finsbury Square, and she was alarmed to see a couple of young scoundrels fighting, and was timorous on the water besides. All three together has been too much for her Four Nell."

Mr. Quilp unintentionally adopted the very best means he could have devised for the recovery of his property by putting her out of hand. Such an application from any other hand might not have produced a remarkable effect, but the child shrunk so quickly from the touch of the cruel dwarf, and was timorous on the water besides. All three together has been too much for her Four Nell."

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"But you'd better wait, and dine with Mrs. Quilp and me," said the dwarf.

"I have been away long, Sir, already," returned Nell, drying her eyes.

"Well," said Mr. Quilp, "if you will go, you will, Nelly. Here's the letter. It's only to say that I shall see him to-morrow or soyhe next day, and that I couldn't do that little business for him this morning. Good bye, Nelly. Here, you can take care of her, can't you?"

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"You're a keen questioner, sir!) you, Mrs. Quilp?" said the dwarf turning upon her as soon as they were alone.

"What more could I do?" returned his wife, mildly.

"What more could you do?" sneered Quilp, "could'nt you have done something too? couldn't you have done what you had to do without appearing in your favorite part of the crocodile, you cow?"

"I am very sorry for the child, Quilp," said his wife—"Surely I've done enough. I've led her on to tell her secret when she supposed we were alone; and you were by, God forgive me."

"You led her on! You did a great deal, truly," said Quilp. "Was I to lurk thirty minutes or more making me croak the door? It's lucky for you that from what she let fall, I've got the clue I want, for if I had'nt, I'd have visited the failure upon you, I can tell you."

Mrs. Quilp being fully persuaded of this made no reply. Her husband added with some exultation,

"But you may thank your fortunate stars—the same stars that made you Mrs. Quilp—you may thank your fortunate stars that I am on another track and have got a new light. So let me hear no more about this matter now or at any other time, or I'll get my own back into nice for dinner, for I shan't be home to it."

So saying, Mr. Quilp put his hat on and took himself off, and Mrs. Quilp, who was afflicted beyond measure by the recollection of the pains she had just acted, shut herself up in her chamber, and smothering her head in the bed-clothes betook herself to those soothing forms of grief under tender-hearted persons would have mounted a much greater officer; for in the majority of cases, sympathy is a sort of stimulus to exertion, which will bear a deal of stretching and adapt itself to a great variety of circumstances. Some people by prudent management and leasing it off piece by piece like a fishing-line in stormy weather, even contrive, in time, to dispense with it altogether; but there be others who can assume the garment and throw it off at pleasure, and thus being the greatest and most convenient improvement, is the one most in vogue.

CHAPTER THE SEVENTH.

"Fred," said Mr. Swiveller, "remember the story applicable to the present occasion, of the soaking flume of hilarity with the wing of friendship; and pass the rosy wine."

The speaker, whose apostrophe were addressed to the neighborhood of Drury Lane, and in addition to this convenience of situation had the advantage of being over a tobacconist's shop, so that he was wreathed in smoke as he sat, appeared to be sitting by merely stepping out upon the staircase, and was saved the trouble and expense of maintaining a second room. It was a dirty apartment that Mr. Swiveller made use of the expression, above recorded for the consolation and encouragement of his companion, seemed and it may not be unincreasing or improper to remark that even those brief observations partook in a double sense of the figurative and poetical character of Mr. Swiveller's mind, as the wine was in fact supplied to be presented by one glass of cold gin-and-water which was replenished as occasion required from a bottle that stood by the fire, and the water from one to another in a scarcity of tumblers, which, as Mr. Swiveller's was a bachelor's establishment, was a circumstance of frequent occurrence. By a like pleasant fiction his single chamber was always mentioned in the plural number. In its dimensions, indeed, it was scarcely calculated to fit in his window as "apartments" for a single gentleman, and Mr. Swiveller, following up the same train of thought, and with a due regard to lodgings, or his chambers, conveying to his hearer ears a notion of indefinite space, and leaving their imaginations to wander through long suites of lofty halls, at pleasure.

In this flight of fancy, Mr. Swiveller was assisted by a deceptive piece of furniture, in reality a bedstead, but in semblance a handsome sofa, occupied a prominent situation in his chamber and seemed to defy suspicion and challenge inquiry. There is no doubt that by day Mr. Swiveller finely believed this secret convenience to be a bookcase and nothing more, that he closed his eyes to the legs that hung decently down in front of the blankets, and spurned the bolster from his thoughts. No word of its real use, no hint of the nightly service, no allusion to the truth and he'll do so first enough. As to Nell, constant dropping will wear away a stone; you know you may tread on a worm once too often. To prepare with the habitual carelessness of his disposition stepped in and still weighed down by the settled belief in the false impression that Dick suffered for all his learning, and was in some cases out of ten looked upon as his foregoing template when he was indeed nothing more than a mere blockhead.

"Fred," quoth he, "and Fred," said his friend, stirring the mixture, "a little sentiment appropriate to the occasion. Here's May the——"

"Hush!" said the child, laying her finger on her lip and looking round. "When he comes home in the morning, which is generally just before day, I sit him in. Last night he was very late, and it was quite light. I saw that his face was deadly pale, that his eyes were bloodshot, and that his clothes were all wet. He said he had gone to bed again, I heard him say, before he knew that I was there, that he could not bear his life much longer, and if it was not for the child, would wish to die. What shall I do? Oh! what shall I do?"

"Bah!" muttered his friend, pensively.

"With all my heart," said Mr. Swiveller. "In the polite circles I believe this sort of thing isn't usually said to a gentleman in his own apartments, but never mind that. Make yourself at home." Adding to this retort an observation to the effect that his friend appeared to be rather "sneaky" in point of temper, Richard Swiveller finished the rosy and applied himself to the composition of another glassful, and which, after tasting it with great relish, he proposed a toast to an imaginary company.

"Gentlemen, I'll give you, if you please, success to the ancient family of the Swivellers, and good luck to Richard in particular—Mr. Richard, gentlemen," said Dick with great emphasis, "who spends all his money on his friends, and is flush 'i' for his pains. Hear, hear!"

Dick said either, returning to his task after having paced the room twice or thrice, "will you talk seriously for two minutes, if I allow you a long try to make your fortune with very little trouble?"

"You've shown me so many," returned Dick; "and nothing has come of any of 'em but empty pockets—"

"You'll tell a different story of this one, before the very long time is over," said his companion, drawing his chair close to the table. "You saw my sister Nell?"

"What about her?" returned Dick.

"She has a pretty face, has she not?"

"Why, certainly," replied Dick, "I must say for her that there's not any very strong family likeness between you and her."

"Has she a pretty face?" repeated his friend impatiently.

"Yes," said Dick, "she has a pretty face, a very pretty face. What of that?"

"I'll tell you," returned his friend. "It's very well that the old man and I should quarrel, and gore-drawn to the end of our lives, and that I have nothing to expect from him. You see that, I suppose?"

"A hit might see that, with the sun shining," said Dick.

"It's equally plain that the money which the half-crown—first taught me to expect I should share with her at his death, will all be hers, is it not?"

"I don't say it was," replied Dick; "under the way in which I put the case to him, made an impression. It may have done so. It was powerful, Fred. "Here is a jolly old grandfather —that was strong, I thought—very friendly and natural. Did it strike you in that way?"

"I didn't strike him," returned the other, "no more than the sun. Now look here. Nell is nearly fourteen."

"Fine girl of her age, but small," observed Richard Swiveller, critically.

"If I am to go on, be quiet for one minute," returned Trent, fretting at the very slight interest he took in his self secret when she supposed we were alone; and you were by, God forgive me."

"You led her on! You did a great deal, truly," said Quilp. "Was I to lurk thirty minutes or more making me croak the door? It's lucky for you that from what she let fall, I've got the clue I want, for if I had'nt, I'd have visited the failure upon you, I can tell you."

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CHAPTER THE SEVENTH.

"Fred," said Mr. Swiveller, "remember the story applicable to the present occasion, of the soaking flume of hilarity with the wing of friendship; and pass the rosy wine."

The speaker, whose apostrophe were addressed to the neighborhood of Drury Lane, and in addition to this convenience of situation had the advantage of being over a tobacconist's shop, so that he was wreathed in smoke as he sat, appeared to be sitting by merely stepping out upon the staircase, and was saved the trouble and expense of maintaining a second room. It was a dirty apartment that Mr. Swiveller made use of the expression, above recorded for the consolation and encouragement of his companion, seemed and it may not be unincreasing or improper to remark that even those brief observations partook in a double sense of the figurative and poetical character of Mr. Swiveller's mind, as the wine was in fact supplied to be presented by one glass of cold gin-and-water which was replenished as occasion required from a bottle that stood by the fire, and the water from one to another in a scarcity of tumblers, which, as Mr. Swiveller's was a bachelor's establishment, was a circumstance of frequent occurrence. By a like pleasant fiction his single chamber was always mentioned in the plural number. In its dimensions, indeed, it was scarcely calculated to fit in his window as "apartments" for a single gentleman, and Mr. Swiveller, following up the same train of thought, and with a due regard to lodgings, or his chambers, conveying to his hearer ears a notion of indefinite space, and leaving their imaginations to wander through long suites of lofty halls, at pleasure.

In this flight of fancy, Mr. Swiveller was assisted by a deceptive piece of furniture, in reality a bedstead, but in semblance a handsome sofa, occupied a prominent situation in his chamber and seemed to defy suspicion and challenge inquiry. There is no doubt that by day Mr. Swiveller finely believed this secret convenience to be a bookcase and nothing more, that he closed his eyes to the legs that hung decently down in front of the blankets, and spurned the bolster from his thoughts. No word of its real use, no hint of the nightly service, no allusion to the truth and he'll do so first enough. As to Nell, constant dropping will wear away a stone; you know you may tread on a worm once too often. To prepare with the habitual carelessness of his disposition stepped in and still weighed down by the settled belief in the false impression that Dick suffered for all his learning, and was in some cases out of ten looked upon as his foregoing template when he was indeed nothing more than a mere blockhead.

"Fred," said Mr. Swiveller, finding that his former adjuration had been productive of no effect, "Pass the rosy."

Young Trent with an impatient gesture pushed the glass toward him. But I have not told you the greatest change of all, and this you must never breathe again to any one. He has no sleep now, none at all. Night after night I hear him say that; for every night and nearly all night long he is away from home."

"Eh!" said the child, laying her finger on her lip and looking round. "When he comes home in the morning, which is generally just before day, I sit him in. Last night he was very late, and it was quite light. I saw that his face was deadly pale, that his eyes were bloodshot, and that his clothes were all wet. He said he had gone to bed again, I heard him say, before he knew that I was there, that he could not bear his life much longer, and if it was not for the child, would wish to die. What shall I do? Oh! what shall I do?"

The fluctuations of her heart were open; the child, overpowered by the weight of her sorrows and anxieties, by the first confidence she had ever shown, and the sympathy with which her little tale had been received, hid her face in the arms of her helpless friend, and burst into a passion of tears.

In a few moments Mr. Quilp returned, and expressed the utmost surprise to find her in this condition, which he did very correctly and with admirable effect, for that kind of acting which is rendered familiar to him by long practice, and he was quite at home in it.

"Here, Nell," said he, "Mrs. Quilp," said the dwarf, squinting in a hideous manner to imply that his wife was to follow his lead. "It's a long way from my house to Finsbury Square, and she was alarmed to see a couple of young scoundrels fighting, and was timorous on the water besides. All three together has been too much for her Four Nell."

Mr. Quilp unintentionally adopted the very best means he could have devised for the recovery of his property by putting her out of hand. Such an application from any other hand might not have produced a remarkable effect, but the child shrunk so quickly from the touch of the cruel dwarf, that she rose directly and declared herself ready to return.

"But you'd better wait, and dine with Mrs. Quilp and me," said the dwarf.

"I have been away long, Sir, already," returned Nell, drying her ey